



DRAFT

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
COMMUNITY DESIGN STUDIO
7506 E. INDIAN SCHOOL RD
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2006**

SUMMARIZED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Daniel Basinger, Chairman
Jay Spector, Vice-Chairman
Michele Cohen, Board Member, telephonically
Brian Munson, Board Member

ABSENT: Ron Hand, Board Member
Jimmy Leung, Board Member
James Mulloy, Board Member

STAFF PRESENT:
Larry Person
Chuck Skidmore, Energy Engineer
Teresa Huish, Principal Transportation Planner
Anthony Floyd, Green Building Manager

ALSO PRESENT:
Chris Harrison, Green Building Advisory Committee
Don Manthe, past Vice-Chairman

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman Basinger at 5:22 p.m.

Roll Call and Approval of 5/17/06 Meeting/Retreat Minutes

A formal roll call confirmed the presence of Board Members as noted above.

VICE-CHAIRMAN SPECTOR MOVED THE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2006 MEETING. BOARD MEMBER MUNSON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0).

Public Comment

None.

EQAB Board Retreat Strategic Work Plan

Board Member Munson and Vice-Chairman Spector agreed to complete their writing assignments in time for the September EQAB meeting.

Water Advisory Committee Strategic Direction

Board Member Munson distributed the Water Advisory Committee strategic outline. The Committee has agreed to meet on a monthly basis.

Beth Miller provided the Committee with a supplement depicting the Water Department's efforts in publicizing the turf removal rebate program for commercial and residential common areas. Board Member Munson undertook to distribute the flyer by e-mail to EQAB members.

The Water Advisory Committee would like to schedule a presentation on the City Audit program at some point over the next year. The Committee made a general affirmation to provide EQAB support for the water programs. The Water Advisory Committee has committed to become familiar with the City Stormwater program and identify opportunities to support it. A discussion ensued on the issue of inadequate separators and traps in restaurants and the impact this has on the storm drainage system. Mr. Person suggested that EQAB could help to coordinate the efforts of the Stormwater Management staff and the Planning Department. Vice-Chairman Spector suggested brokering a meeting between the two departments, and also working with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage responsible disposal of liquids.

Board Member Munson noted there is an issue with backwashing of swimming pools in north Scottsdale, creating additional gully erosion. Other concerns identified by the Water Advisory Committee include sustainability and groundwater management. Board Member Munson outlined the responsibilities of the Stormwater Management staff.

VICE-CHAIRMAN SPECTOR MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE STRATEGIC WORK OUTLINE OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AS PRESENTED BY BOARD MEMBER MUNSON. BOARD MEMBER MUNSON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0).

Transportation Master Plan - Environmental Issues

Principal Transportation Planner Teresa Huish reviewed the Transportation Master Plan, including a comprehensive update of all transportation modes, Phase 2 of the high-capacity transit study and some area studies looking at specific circulation issues. Ms. Huish distributed hard copies of the presentation and the criteria to Board Members.

Staff have been heavily involved in outreach activities since the work began last November. The consultants are developing scenarios derived from numerous interviews and meetings. Staff will test these scenarios over the summer with the goal of developing a restricted number of scenarios with some likelihood of implementation. At this point there are a great many ideas to work through.

Ms. Huish explained that staff wanted to ensure that the Transportation Master Plan is based on the community mobility element of the General Plan. Although this is a long-term plan with a projected lifespan of 20 years, there are some specific short-term issues to be addressed. She noted that this is the first comprehensive transportation plan since 1989. Currently the Department has a Streets Plan, a Transit Plan, a Bike Plan and a Trails Plan. The goal of the Transportation Master Plan is to bring all of these elements together and determine where any conflicts are.

About 75 percent of the capital improvements program is related to transportation projects. Ms. Huish stated that the region is expected to double in population within the next 20 years. Traffic congestion is a noted concern.

In response to a question by Vice-Chairman Spector, Ms. Huish opined that the Phoenix region was not prepared for light rail twenty years ago and acknowledged that Phoenix, Mesa, and Tempe have now committed to light rail. A discussion on light rail implementation around the country ensued.

Vice-Chairman Spector asked Ms. Huish to define high-capacity transit. She replied that it is either an express bus service, a modern streetcar, or light rail.

Brief discussion ensued upon questions by Board Member Cohen relative to how Scottsdale compares with other regions which have high-capacity transit systems in place. Ms. Huish explained that the high-capacity transit system should eventually be extended to the Airpark and to the area at Princess Drive and Loop 101. The ASU Scottsdale Center is a node; downtown Scottsdale is a node; as are the resorts along Scottsdale Road. A study of Airpark circulation is currently in progress. A study of Chaparral Road and downtown circulation is part of the Transportation Master Plan. The intersection at Scottsdale Road and Chaparral Road is being improved.

Ms. Huish noted that two goals regarding sustainability were added to the plan as recommended by the citizens working group. She outlined the environmental sustainability criteria, which include acreage occupied by parking spaces, energy consumed per capita for transportation, and trip reduction.

Vice-Chairman Spector commended the Transportation team on their recognition of sustainability as part of the goal of the Transportation Master Plan.

In response to a question by Mr. Person, Ms. Huish stated that the final proposal will not contribute to air quality problems. Mr. Person noted that MAG oversees conformity to the Clean Air Act. Transportation projects which would have a negative impact on air quality cannot be built. He added that Ms. Huish's background in planning is an excellent asset, noting that urban sprawl and intelligent transportation design are polar opposites. Green community planning concepts need to occur at the same time that transportation planning is underway. Ms. Huish acknowledged that the Transportation Department is working with the

Planning Department. The Chamber of Commerce is also concerned with this process because high-capacity transit results in redevelopment.

Ms. Huish explained that the Transportation Department is considering five alternative scenarios and have not yet decided on a specific technology for high-capacity transit. The Department expects to present the plan to City Council early in 2007. Chairman Basinger asked Ms. Huish to return to EQAB with the plan that the Transportation Department supports and share the expected environmental impact from each plan with the Board. Ms. Huish suggested returning to EQAB in the fall.

Ms. Huish encouraged Board Members to subscribe to the e-mail subscription list. Vice-Chairman Spector suggested consideration be given to establishing a self contained electric system for light rail. Mr. Anthony Floyd, Green Building Manager, asked about the design of transit stations and the opportunities to maximize shade. Ms. Huish assured the meeting that the proposed suggestions will be considered as the project gets underway.

Mr. Person is impressed that the sustainability goals relate directly to the new Energy Committee and the Green Building Advisory Board.

Summer EQAB Meeting Schedule

Mr. Person noted that City Council goes on hiatus from July 12 through August 28. No pressing environmental matters are on the August Council agenda. It was the consensus of the Board to hold the next meeting in September.

Green Building- Committee Report

Board Member Cohen introduced Mr. Chris Harrison of the Green Building Advisory Board. Addressing the new Green Building Checklist, Mr. Harrison reported that the current checklist was revised to stay abreast of evolving technology and the energy code and raise the bar for the builders in the program. The new checklist is intended to be very practical and easy to use. Members of the working group have expertise in many aspects of Green Building.

Mr. Floyd stated that implementation is planned for September 1. The process is currently being refined, particularly with regard to building inspections. The goal is to have a streamlined process for builders. There are currently close to 30 different numbers contractors have to call for Green Building inspections. Under the new checklist, the building inspectors will automatically check the Green Building items.

In response to a question by Vice-Chairman Spector, Mr. Floyd explained that the decision was made to integrate Green Building into the regular inspection process and described how the process has been streamlined with some self-certified items. A discussion on self-certification ensued. Mr. Harrison noted that a contractor can select a performance based option rather than a prescriptive option. Mr. Floyd noted that there is now a national guideline by the National Association of Home Builders. Vice-Chairman Spector suggested that involving the local chapter might encourage production builders to get on board.

Mr. Floyd reported that the plan is to train the building inspectors during August. Mr. Harrison commented that although there is always an opportunity to streamline a process, the success of the Green Building Program to date speaks for itself. In his

professional experience, contractors had used the previous checklist and not become discouraged. Mr. Floyd noted that out of a possible 300 points, only 70 are needed to qualify and there has been discussion that the bar should be raised. However he pointed out the new house size rating adjustment. This discourages the construction of homes larger than 3,000 square feet. A discussion ensued, initiated by Vice-Chairman Spector. Board Member Cohen stated it should be worded to encourage people to participate. Vice-Chairman Spector agreed that setting out how many points a home would need to obtain is a more positive approach. Mr. Manthe agreed that extra points should be given to people who build small homes.

Further discussion ensued. Mr. Floyd noted that the LEED for Homes Program is in the pilot phase and is far more stringent than the Scottsdale checklist. The Arizona market is different and the LEED program would not function well. Mr. Floyd requested that Board Members forward their comments to him. Mr. Skidmore expressed an interest in making a comparison of evaporative cooling versus air conditioning. Modern air conditioning, in fact, may be more energy efficient.

Discussion followed relative to the general national questioning of how a very large house can be green and the challenges created therewith.

Mr. Floyd commented that there has been some criticism of the checklist. A large scale house with plenty of solar energy has qualified, although it contains rainforest wood and has high energy use. The intent of the Program is to reward people for doing good things. Vice-Chairman Spector opined that if people who are in a position to build a large scale home want to make it green, they should not be alienated and penalized. Mr. Floyd noted that the new checklist states that the house must be 15 percent above the Energy Code, which is a new departure.

Board Member Cohen asked about the points associated with using Energy Star appliances. Mr. Floyd explained there is a maximum of three points, otherwise the program would be biased towards larger homes. The biggest energy savings are realized by the dishwasher, washing machine, and refrigerator. Mr. Person noted that if this is designed to be an interim step with an end goal of making Green Building mandatory throughout Scottsdale, people should not be automatically disqualified for having a large home or using wood from the rainforest. However, those buildings need to be greener in other respects to compensate.

Vice-Chairman Spector asked about relative building costs. Mr. Floyd explained that there are so many choices of Green Building products that attempts have not been made to calculate costs.

13. **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc.